



Dear Students,

On Monday, July 6, the [Student and Exchange Visitor Program \(SEVP\)](#) published a “[Broadcast Message](#)” on remote instruction at US universities during the fall 2020 semester, particularly as it relates to the legal status of international students in F-1 status and their eligibility to enter or stay in the United States.

We know that this announcement raises many questions and concerns for international students and causes more stress and uncertainty in the midst of an already difficult time. We want to assure you that Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and our campus partners are working diligently to review and analyze this guidance and to develop institutional accommodations, policies, and procedures in the best interest of the international community at Rutgers. We will do our very best to help international students maintain their legal status and stay in the US for the fall semester if they need or would like to.

We echo [President Holloway’s message](#) and will continue to do our best to support and advocate for our international community. International students are much valued members of the university, and we are committed to providing you the highest levels of services and resources to ensure a rich and successful Rutgers experience.

### **What do you need to know about this guidance and its implication?**

- Review our initial interpretation to the ICE guidance [here](#).
- According to the [SEVP FAQ](#) published on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, this guidance takes effect at the start of the school’s fall semester – September 1, 2020 for Rutgers.
- Rutgers meets the third descriptor in the guidance: school adopting a hybrid model - that is, a mixture of online and in person classes. [President Holloway](#) announced on Monday, July 6, 2020, that Rutgers will operate in a hybrid mode during the fall 2020 semester, delivering courses predominantly via remote instruction with a limited number of in-person classes.

- Students attending schools adopting a hybrid model will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online (pre-pandemic limit) and stay in the US while maintaining their active F-1 status. However, they must have an in-person component to their full-time course load.
- We are working with university units and within the parameters of government guidance to better understand what will meet the “in-person” requirement set forth in the policy.
- Graduate students who are conducting research and/or pursuing other non-coursework degree requirements such as thesis/dissertation/practicum credits will meet the in-person requirement.
- Continuing students who are outside the US may enroll in online courses. The guidance from July 6 states that students can take all online courses and maintain their status if the university is offering only online instruction. A [follow-up FAQ from ICE](#) states that students taking courses online outside of the U.S. will be able to maintain their F-1 status. We are seeking clarification on this conflicting guidance and will provide an update as we receive it.
- New students who are outside the US will be able to begin their programs and take courses online from outside the US. Their SEVIS status will be activated when they come to the US in a future semester. If in China, new first year undergraduates may also opt into the [ROSE](#) program.
- ISSS is working on a procedure to reissue I-20s for students who will need it. We will share more information about this in the coming weeks.

There are still many aspects of this proposed policy that require clarification. Rutgers Global, the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations, the Rutgers Office of General Counsel and others are working to address these concerns and find solutions. Rutgers, as well as many other universities, and several national academic organizations are also actively advocating for changes to the disturbing new ICE policy or to stop it from going into effect.

We will bring you updated guidance as the situation evolves. Be sure to check the [Rutgers Global Alerts](#) webpage for the latest information and please [reach out to ISSS](#) to discuss your questions and concerns. You can send us an email at [iss-students@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:iss-students@global.rutgers.edu), or set up a virtual appointment to meet with an international student advisor. While we are receiving a very high volume of emails and appointment requests right now, we will get back to you at our earliest.

Please take care of yourselves and remember we are with you through your Rutgers journey. As stated clearly in President Holloway’s message, “Rutgers will defend and support our international students”.

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services

**Useful Resources:**

- [Updated International Student FAQ](#)
- [R-connection web page](#) for answers frequently asked questions, as well as other resources to help ensure your success this coming semester.